1: Labrecque, Éd. Le Mariage chez les Babemba. [Marriage Customs of the Babemba Tribe.] Africa, Vol. 4, pp. 209-221. London: Oxford University Press (Humphrey Milford) for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures, 1931.

Yale: Bk2.10 v.4 [HRAF MS: pp. 1-13]

Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Mrs. Ruth Horine.

[This source gives a brief description of the betrothal, chisungu (girls' puberty) and marriage ceremonies of the Bemba, together with a brief sketch of the tribal history as a preliminary. At the time the article was written, Père Labrecque was a missionary in the area, attached to the Mission des Pères Blancs. —Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1930
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Missionary - 5
Processed in 1957

2: Richards, Audrey I. Land, Labour and Diet in Northern Rhodesia: An Economic Study of the Bemba Tribe. Oxford: Published for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures by the Oxford University Press, 1939.

Pp. xvi, 424; plates 1-16; 3 charts; 2 end maps.

Yale: Nkd85 B4 939r

[This monograph, written by a social anthropologist who was at that time a Research Fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge, is a thorough functional study of the economics of the Bemba. The interrelations are shown between the diet and food-getting practices of the people, and their kinship system, political organization, ceremonial life, and values. Full descriptive material is given on agriculture, hunting, fishing, collecting, etc and the associated practices and beliefs. Bibliographic references are contained in the footnotes. —Analyst]

Field date: 1930-1934
Analyst: James Leary

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1958

3: Richards, Audrey I. Chisungu. A Girls' Initiation Ceremony among the Bemba of Northern Rhodesia. London: Faber and Faber, 1956.

Pp. 224; 14 plates; bibliography; index.

Yale: Nkd10. 956R

[This is a descriptive and interpretative account of the chisungu or girls' initiation ceremony among the Bemba of Northern Rhodesia. In the introduction, the author discusses the theoretical significance of the puberty rites. A summary of the material environment and institutional structure of the Bemba society provides the necessary frame of reference for the better understanding of the ceremony itself. Being one of the sponsors of the particular ceremony that she had witnessed, the author is able to record the various rituals in detail. A functional interpretation of the chisungu, especially its place in a matrilineal

3: Richards, Audrey I.

society, concludes this fine study. An appendix on the distribution of the puberty ceremonies in Central Africa, and one on the songs sung during the Bemba ceremony are included in the book. For information about the author see 2: Richards, this file. —Analyst]

Field date: 1930-1934
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1958

4: Whiteley, Wilfred. Bemba and Related Peoples of Northern Rhodesia. Ethnographic Survey of Africa; East Central Africa, Part II; pp. 1-32, 70-76. London: International African Institute, 1950.

Yale: Nkd74.Et3.I.2

[This is a brief cultural survey of a group of matrilineal peoples belonging to the Central Bantu group. They include the Bemba, Bisa, Aushi, Unga, Shila, Tabwa, Bwile and Twa peoples, and also the Senga, an offshoot of the Bisa. It is a compilation of the present knowledge of the tribal groupings, distribution, physical environment, social conditions, political and economic structure, religious, beliefs and cult practices, technology and art of these peoples. Being primarily a listing of facts without any attempt at interpretation, it is useful only as a convenient source of reference. —Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist--4
Processed in 1958

5: Slaski, J. Peoples of the Lower Luapula Valley. Ethnographic Survey of Africa; East Central Africa, Part II; pp. 77-100.
London: International African Institute, 1950.

Yale: Nkd74.Et3.I.2

[This is a brief survey of the Luapula peoples, the most important of whom are the Lunda of the Kazembe Kingdom. It is a compilation of the present knowledge of the tribal groupings, distribution, physical environment, political and economic structure, and religious beliefs of these peoples. Since published data on these peoples are quite meagre, there are many gaps in this survey. It is useful only as a convenient source of referene. —Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist--4
Processed in 1958

6: Brelsford, William V. The Succession of Bemba Chiefs: A Guide for District Officers. Lusaka, 1944.

Pp. i-iv, 43; 2 tables.

Yale: DT963.B73

[The political stability of the Bemba society is dependent upon the smooth functioning of its rule of succession. The hierarchy of Bemba chieftainships is graded and the installation of a new chief often involves a series of political readjustments spread over several districts. This source describes, with the help of genealogical tables and historical examples, the intricate system of succession. Since chieftainships are monopolized by the royal line, data on kinship structure are found throughout the monograph. The author was a district officer at the time of writing. —Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1940
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official - 5
Processed in 1958

7: Richards, Audrey I. The Political System of the Bemba Tribe—North-Eastern Rhodesia. M. Fortes and E.E. Evans-Pritchard, ed., African Political Systems, pp. 83-120. London: International African Institute, 1940.

Yale: Nkd18 940f

[This essay is a highly compressed study of the Bemba political system. The author at the time, was a Reader in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The essay discusses the inter-relationships of the Bemba political organization, kinship structure and religious practices. It analyzes systematically the bases of authority, functions of leadership, and the machinery of government. The final portion is devoted to a description and analysis of post-European changes. —Analyst]

Field date: 1930-34.
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist --5
Processed in 1958

8: Richards, Audrey I. Reciprocal Clan Relationships Among the Bemba of N.E. Rhodesia. Man, Vol. 37, Article No. 222, pp. 188-193. London: The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1937.

Yale: Nk10 M31 v.36-37

[This is a short article concerning the origin and function of ritual clan relationships among the Bemba and the closely allied Bisa. Each clan is not systematically paired, but often has a number of different partners linked by the apparently arbitrary factor of the clan name. The relationship implies ritual interdependence; a partnership of enemies, expressed in ritual; traditional jokes and freedom in daily intercourse; and preferential marriage claims (no longer practiced). —Analyst]

Field date: 1930-1934
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1958

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9: Richards, Audrey, I. A Modern Movement of Witch-Finders. Africa, Journal of the International Institute of African Languages and Culture, Vol. 8, pp. 448-460. London: Oxford University Press, 1935.

Yale: Bk2.10.8

[This is a descriptive and analytical study of the Bamucapi, or witch-finders movement among the Bemba tribes. The author believes that the movement was the result of changes introduced into the tribal society through contacts with Europeans. The resultant sense of insecurity heightened the fear of witchcraft which in turn promoted the activities of witch-finders. The author has placed her study in the general framework of the function of witchcraft in primitive societies. —Analyst]

Field date: 1930-1934
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1958

10: Barnes, Rev. H. Survival After Death among the Ba-Bemba of North-Eastern Rhodesia. Man, vol. 22, article no. 26, pp. 41-42. London: The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1922.

Yale: Nk10 + M31 v. 22-23

[This article is a short note about the Bemba belief in the soul and the relationship of the fate of the soul after death to the naming system. -- Analyst]

Field date: (ca. 1920)
Analyst: Robert J. Theodoratus

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1962